

added matter. On February 9, 2004, Applicants responded to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (a copy of said Response is attached herein as Exhibit 3). Applicants did not receive a reply to their filed Response from the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Nonetheless, Applicants hereby respond to the March 12, 2004 Office Action.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Claim Amendments

1-244. (cancelled)

245. (currently amended) A process for selectively expressing a nucleic acid product ~~in-a~~ into one or more compatible cells, which product requires processing for functioning, said process comprising;

- (i) providing a nucleic acid construct which when introduced into a ~~cell~~ said cells produces a nucleic acid product comprising a non-native ~~processing element~~ intron, which when in a one or more compatible cells, said processing element is substantially removed from the nucleic acid product during processing of the nucleic acid product and
- (ii) introducing said construct into said compatible cells.

246. (cancelled)

247. (previously presented) The process of claim 245, wherein said nucleic acid product is selected from the group consisting of antisense RNA, antisense DNA, sense RNA, sense DNA, a ribozyme and a protein binding nucleic acid sequence and a combination of the foregoing.

248. (currently amended) The process of claim 245, wherein said construct is introduced *ex vivo* into said cells.

249. (currently amended) The process of claim 248 245, wherein said construct is introduced *in vivo* into said cells.

250. (currently amended) The process of claim 245, wherein said construct is introduced into a biological system containing said cells.

251. (previously presented) The process of claim 250, wherein the biological system is selected from the group consisting of an organism, an organ, a tissue and a culture or a combination of the foregoing.

252. (new) The method according to claim 245, wherein said non-native intron is in a coding sequence of said nucleic acid product.

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